

Broken Hearts New Found Love

by ALargeBear

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Summary: Honoka and Nozomi were both in love with someone close to them. But when their hearts get unintentionally broken can their shared heartbreak form an even stronger bond between the two of them?

1. Chapter 1

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><p>It was a cold winter day and Nozomi found herself walking home after idol practice alongside her best friend Eli. There was nothing really out of the ordinary, except that Nozomi noticed her friend seemed to be nervous and couldn't stop playing with the buttons on her uniform.<p>

"Are you alright Elicchi? You seem really nervous about something."

"I'm fine Nozomi." Eli replied in a shaky voice.

Nozomi decided not to press as the two simply continued their walk. As the two where nearing the point they split off Eli broke the silence.

"I'm gonna come over to your place Nozomi. That's okay right?"

This caught Nozomi a little off guard. It wasn't unusual for Eli to visit her apartment, but it was odd for Eli to invite herself over like she just had.

"Well I don't mind. But you do know it is a weekday right?"

"Of course I do. I won't be over long, I just need some advice with something." Eli had a small blush on her face as she finished talking, which didn't go unnoticed by Nozomi.

"My my, what could my dear Elicchi need help with?"

"W-we will talk about it when we get to your apartment." Eli's blush brightened as she quickly looked away. Nozomi saw this as a great opportunity to tease her friend.

"Could it be that you need some of Nozomi's excellent love advice?" Nozomi playfully questioned her friend with her signature smirk.

Eli didn't answer and simply kept looking away.

"Oh. So I was right wasn't I? Who is the person lucky enough to capture Elicchi's heart?" Sometimes Nozomi couldn't help it, Eli was just too easy.

"Shut up Nozomi!" Eli shouted, obviously Nozomi's teasing had worked. "We will talk about it when we get there."

"Alright. I guess I can wait."

Eli didn't answer and simply kept on walking.

Once they finally arrived Nozomi told Eli to go make herself comfortable as she went to go make tea and grab some snacks.

While Nozomi was making the tea she couldn't help but start to think about what Eli wanted to talk about. To Nozomi it was fairly obvious that whatever it was that Eli needed help with was an embarrassing topic. Based on the reactions she was getting while they were walking, she was pretty sure that it was love that had her friend so embarrassed, and that got Nozomi excited.

Ever since the two first met, Nozomi knew she was in love with Eli. Eli was the first person to get that close to Nozomi and break through to her. Because of that she became incredibly important to Nozomi. That's why this got Nozomi excited and a little hopeful. Maybe after all this time of being together Eli was starting to see Nozomi the same way she saw her.

"Nozomi what's taking so long."

Eli's voice broke Nozomi out of her thoughts as she quickly filled some cups with the tea and brought the tray out.

"Jeez what took you so long?"

"Sorry. I just got a little distracted." Nozomi replied as she set the tray down and they both took a cup. "So what kind of advice are you looking for?"

"W-well you see. I'm in love with this girl." Eli sheepishly said while looking down at her cup of tea.

"Oh, so I was right before." Nozomi could feel her pulse quicken and her palms get a bit sweaty.

"Y-yeah you where. I'm just not really sure what to do about it." Eli was now blushing still not looking up at Nozomi.

"So how long have you been having feelings for this girl?" Nozomi was having a hard time hiding her hope and excitement now. In her mind this was all leading to something that Nozomi had wanted for so long.

"W-well I guess it all started when we first met. We have similar personalities so we got along pretty well from the start. She is also really kind and mature, always helping out others." Eli's explained as her grip on her cup tightened.

"She sounds like a really great person." Nozomi said with anticipation.

"She really is."

"So who is the lucky girl anyway?" Nozomi could barely hold back anymore this was all to good to be true. After all those years of waiting and hoping that Eli would return her feelings she felt that now was that time. They would finally be together and Nozomi would finally get what she wanted ever since the two had first met. Nothing would have ever made her happier than to finally be able to call herself Eli's girlfriend.

"I-I-It's Umi"

"Huh?" Nozomi heard her but she couldn't believe, she didn't want to believe it. No it wasn't real she had to hear her say it again, surely it was a mistake.

"I-I said I love Umi" Eli repeated still staring at the tea in her hand.

Nozomi's mind simply went blank as she was flooded with so many emotions all at once. Everything she had been building up over the years with Eli seemed to have flooded into her all at once as Eli said those dreaded words. It felt like her heart had been ripped out of her chest and torn in two right before her very eyes. She wanted to run to her bed to cry to yell to just let all of these pent up years of love and emotions out in anyway possible. All of this was caused by one simple revelation, Eli simply did not love Nozomi, and it hurt so much more than Nozomi ever thought that it could.

Nozomi knew she couldn't do any of that right now, not in front of Eli. Nozomi knew that it would be selfish to tell her now after all this time, after Eli had told her that she wasn't the one that she loved. Nozomi had to hide all of these different emotions as best she could while in front of Eli. It would be unfair to Eli to get mad at her for loving someone, even if that person wasn't Nozomi.

"Well aren't you going to say something Nozomi? I'm really not sure what I should do about it."

"W-well what do you really need my help with you already know that you love her." Nozomi was holding back the tears as best she could.

"I'm just not sure what I should do. This is all very new to me."

"I think you should just confess, and I think you should do it quickly." Nozomi's words were coming out more harsh than usual as she attempted to stifle her emotions.

Eli was a bit shocked at Nozomi's tone but went on. "Do you really think so? I mean what if she doesn't feel the same way about me?"

"Well you love her don't you?"

Eli didn't answer and simply nodded her head.

"Then tell her. You wouldn't want to live with the regret of not telling the one you love your feelings. Right?" Nozomi was simply trying to end this conversation as quickly as possible. She needed to get Eli out before she broke.

"I-I guess you're right I think I will tell her." Eli's voice was full of determination as she turned to Nozomi and gave her a hug. "Thank you Nozomi for helping me with this."

This was almost too much. She couldn't do it anymore her mask was falling and she needed to get Eli out quickly. So Nozomi pushed out of the hug which surprised Eli.

"Don't worry about it. But I think you should get home I need to make dinner, and I'm sure your sister is wondering where you are."

"I guess you're right I should get going."

With that Eli set her cup on the table and got up walking toward the entryway with Nozomi following not too far behind.

"Thanks again Nozomi, and I think I'm going to tell Umi how I feel as soon as possible." Eli's voice was full of excitement which only added to the despair that Nozomi was currently attempting to hide.

"Yeah you should tell her. I'm sure that things will work out." That was all Nozomi could say.

"Well I'll see you tomorrow then. Hopefully I will have some good news after school."

Nozomi didn't answer, she couldn't trust her voice. So she simply bowed her head slightly as Eli went out the door.

As soon as the door closed Nozomi shuffled to her room and laid on her bed, not even bothering to turn any lights on or to get out of her school uniform. She simply curled up under the sheets and began crying letting out all of the emotions she had been holding inside for so long.

At first Nozomi was angry, not at Eli or Umi, but at herself. She felt like this was her fault for being such a coward all these years. Maybe if she could have worked up the courage to tell Eli how she felt none of this would be happening. She thought back to the advice she had given Eli and couldn't help but see the hypocrisy. She knew she had no right to give that advice, to tell Eli to just simply

confess and not live with regret, because that was exactly what she was doing right now.

A small part of Nozomi was also incredibly jealous. How could some girl Eli hadn't even known for a year come in and take her away. That small part of Nozomi wanted her to hate Umi and hoped that their relationship wouldn't workout. Maybe if Umi rejected Eli she would come back, and Nozomi would be there to comfort her. That maybe if that happened Eli would finally be able to see just how much she cared for her, and they could finally be together. But she knew these thoughts were selfish and simply unfair to Eli and Umi. She knew that you can't control who you fall in love with, even if it hurt her so badly.

Finally she was simply overwhelmed by sadness and depression. After all these years she finally knew that the girl she had loved for so long, loved someone else. She felt inadequate, maybe she simply wasn't good enough for Eli to notice her that way. She knew that she would never be anything more than Eli's best friend. That after all these years of trying to get Eli to notice her she had failed, and now Eli loved another.

She didn't move for hours, she simply laid on her bed and silently sobbed alone. She couldn't bring herself to make any dinner or change into her night clothes. She simply wanted to wallow in her own depression and to just be alone. To cut out the outside world and not let anyone in, or let anyone know of the pain she was feeling.

Nozomi was beginning to feel herself drift off into sleep, but not before a slightly comforting thought entered her mind. She knew that she wouldn't be the only one that this would affect so deeply. There was another person who would feel the same way she does once she hears the news. Maybe that made her selfish, that the thought of another person suffering the same emotions made her feel better. Or it could simply be that Nozomi found a bit of solace knowing she wouldn't be the only one feeling this pain. It was like she would have a comrade in her sadness and that seemed to ease her emotions at least a little bit. She would have someone who she could confide in, and maybe they could help each other. Because she knew Honoka wouldn't take this news well either.

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><p>AN: Well hope you all enjoyed the first chapter of my first multi chapter story. This chapter ended up being a bit shorter than I originally wanted, but I think it turned out okay. This is an idea I've been kicking around for a while and wanted to see where it would go. So let me know what you think and maybe where you might wanna see this go. I've really only got some major plot points I'm going to write to, but everything else will be chapter by chapter.

Also I guess I should mention that though other pairings are going to show up, I'm only going to focus on HonoNozo. It's a pairing I actually really like for some reason. I guess I always thought the idea of the leader of muse and the mother of muse being together was always really sweet to me.

As far as update go I'm not sure how busy I'm going to be. But hopefully I can get at least a chapter out a week, though I really

hope that I can go a bit faster than that.

Also when I write I'm always listening to an album so I figured at the end of each chapter I'll mention what I was listening to. Beause it can have an affect on how I'm writing and some might find it interesting.

Chapter album â€" Changes by Charles Bradley

2. Chapter 2

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><p>"Umi-chan! Why is it so cold today!?" Honoka cried out as she jumped onto Umi's back seeking warmth.<p>

"Honoka stop messing around!" Umi yelled as she was trying to push Honoka off, earning a few giggles from Kotori.

It was a typical winter with the sun shinning bright as the three childhood friends made their way to school, and Honoka was up to her usual antics.

"Awww. But Umi-chan it's so cold outside, and you're super warm." Honoka had a small pout on her face as she attempted to bring Umi back into a hug.

"Maybe you should have dressed warmer." Umi continued to push Honoka away as she began her lecture. "You don't even have gloves or a scarf. You should have known it was going to be this cold and prepared."

"It's not my fault this time though! Yukiho-chan took my scarf this morning when she left without telling me, and I didn't have time to get another one."

"Well that explains the scarf. But what about your gloves?"

Honoka didn't say anything and simply started scratching the back of her head with a few small laughs. She knew it was hopeless to argue with Umi once she started a lecture.

"See this is your own fault. If you had just prepared properly this wouldn't be a problem."

Honoka let out a groan as she looked over to her other friend for support

"Kotori-chan, please help me. Umi-chan is being mean again."

"What did the big mean Umi-chan do this time?" Kotori asked. Earning a small chuckle from Honoka and a loud groan from Umi.

"She won't let me hug her to keep warm. I'm going to freeze if she doesn't help me."

"Is this true Umi-chan? Where you going to let our dear friend

freeze?"

Honoka couldn't control herself anymore and started laughing. Causing Umi to turn her head away from her two friends with a small huff.

"You two always pick on me like this it's not fair. I'm just trying to help Honoka be more responsible."

Hearing that, Honoka and Kotori each latched onto one of Umi's arms in an attempt to pacify her.

"We're sorry Umi-chan we didn't mean it. I know you're just looking out for me." Honoka said while leaning onto Umi

"Yeah we where just having a little fun is all." Kotori added while also leaning into Umi.

"Jeez, what am I going to do with you two." Umi cried out with a small smile on her face

With that the two separated from Umi as they approached the front gate of the school. Honoka noticed Eli standing alone near the entrance and ran up to her.

"Good morning Eli-chan."

"Good morning you three."

Both Kotori and Umi gave quick greetings as well before Honoka started again.

"So what are you doing out here by yourself Eli-chan?"

"W-well I was actually waiting for Umi. I wanted to talk to her before school started today."

Both Honoka and Kotori noticed that Eli was noticeably embarrassed by whatever she needed to talk about. That made Honoka's heart sink.

"Well she's here now. So what did you need to tell her." Honoka's voice came out with a slight edge that she hadn't intended. She didn't like where this was going.

"I-It's kind of private." Eli had a noticeable blush on her face as she turned to Umi. "So could you just come with me before class starts. It won't take very long."

"O-okay let's go." Umi stammered out, than turned to her two friends. "You two can go to class ahead of me I'll go with Eli." With that Eli and Umi left, leaving Honoka frozen in place.

Honoka was lost in her thoughts, she had a pretty good idea what Eli wanted to talk about with Umi, and it filled her with sadness. Honoka had known about Umi's affection for Eli for some time. It was Kotori that first pointed it out to her, the way that Umi would always go to Eli for anything she needed help with. How Umi seemingly looked up to Eli more than anyone else Honoka had ever known. She noticed the way Umi would blush and get nervous anytime her and Eli would be

partnered for idol activities. Most of all, Honoka noticed the way Umi would talk about Eli in a way she wouldn't talk about anyone else, with affection.

Honoka had also noticed the signs from Eli as well. She was just as easy to read as Umi was when it came to embarrassing things like love. The way Eli would try and act even more mature in front of Umi. Or the way she would always try and find ways to help Umi with her new student council duties. It was all simply too obvious, Eli loved Umi and Umi loved Eli, but Honoka also loved Umi.

When she first noticed Umi's feelings for Eli she decided to try and bury her feelings and try and forget about them. She thought that if Umi would be happy with Eli then she wouldn't try and get in the way, even if it meant hiding feelings she had ever since they were kids. She thought she had been doing a good job with it. She didn't get as jealous when Umi went to Eli for help with dance steps, or when Eli would come to the student council room to help Umi. She seemed to have had finally gotten her feelings under control.

This was a different situation though. Honoka was sure Eli was going to confess to Umi, and no matter how hard she had been pushing her love away, it still hurt. All these feelings she had been suppressing were seemingly coming back all at once. She had known Umi didn't love her, but knowing she would end up with someone else hurt her so much more than she thought it would.

She was broken out of her thoughts by Kotori who placed her hand on her shoulder and gave it a reassuring squeeze. Kotori had known about Honoka's love for Umi for a while, and it hurt her to see her normally bright friend so sad.

"Maybe it's not what you think. Maybe she just needed her advice for something." Kotori said while flashing Honoka a reassuring smile.

Honoka didn't respond and simply gave her a blank stare that said she didn't believe her. Kotori didn't blame Honoka, she didn't even believe it herself.

"Well how about we just head to class. We wouldn't want to be late."

Honoka simply nodded her head before they started heading to class.

They arrived before Umi and they both took their seats. Kotori took this as a good time to attempt to help Honoka out.

"Are you sure you're okay Honoka-chan? You know we can just say that you are sick and go to the nurse if you want. I'll stay there with you." Kotori finished with a bright smile in an attempt to bring Honoka's spirits up, even if it was just a little.

"I think I'm going to be fine for now. But thanks Kotori-chan." Honoka's voice was devoid of its usual cheer, and it broke Kotori's heart.

Before Kotori could say something to try and help Umi entered the class obviously flustered, but noticeably happy.

"So what did Eli-chan need to talk you about?" Kotori asked hoping maybe it wasn't what they thought.

"I-I will tell you guys later. Class is about to start." Umi told her, obviously flustered. That was really all the confirmation Kotori and Honoka needed

As if on queue the teacher entered the classroom and began the days lessons.

Classes went by in a haze to Honoka, her mind was preoccupied with to many thoughts, none of them particularly good. Umi's reaction to Kotori's question was all the confirmation she needed, sometimes knowing someone as well as Honoka knew Umi wasn't always a good thing. She knew no matter how she tried to bury these feelings, they were still there.

Her mind wandered from depressing thought to depressing thought all throughout class. Her thoughts were broken by the lunch bell and Umi trying to get her attention.

"Honoka!"

"Ahhh. What is it Umi-chan."

"Where you spacing out that badly. You weren't even paying attention all class were you?" Umi started to scold her friend.

"Sorry Umi-chan I just have a lot of stuff on my mind is all." Honoka was trying to avoid this. She really wasn't in the mood for one of Umi's lectures.

"Umi-chan just let Honoka-chan off this time, please." Kotori jumped in trying to placate Umi.

"Fine. I guess I don't really have the time today anyway."

"What do you mean you don't have the time? We were about to go to lunch." Honoka asked, a bit surprised, the two of them ate lunch together everyday lately.

"I-I was going to eat with Eli today."

"Why are you going to eat with Eli-chan today. Is that what she wanted to ask you this morning?" Kotori asked noticing that Honoka was having trouble keeping herself together.

"W-well not exactly." Umi's face turned bright red and she took a deep breath before she continued. "She actually confessed to me, and I accepted her feelings."

Honoka wasn't sure why hearing it out loud like that hurt her so much, she already knew it was going to happen. Maybe hearing it out loud from the girl herself was simply too much.

"Well congratulations Umi-chan. I'm really happy for both of you." Kotori wasn't really lying, she was really happy her friend had found someone.

"Thank you." Umi said then turned to look at Honoka. "I'm really sorry Honoka I know me and you normally eat lunch together."

"I-It's okay Umi-chan. I understand go spend time with Eli-chan." Honoka was obviously barely holding together and Umi noticed.

"Oh I know. You can just eat with me and Eli. I'm sure she wouldn't mind."

"It's alright Umi-chan, really it is." Honoka told her while mustering up a hollow smile.

"I really am sorry Honoka. Maybe we can spend some time together later." With that Umi stood up gave a few quick goodbyes and left.

Honoka silently began to gather her things to go find a secluded place to eat lunch before she noticed Kotori was still there.

"Why are you still here. Aren't you going to go find Nico-chan." Honoka's words came out very harsh and she quickly regretted it. "I-I'm sorry Kotori-chan I didn't mean it like that."

"It's alright Honoka-chan I understand you're upset, it's okay." Kotori then stood up and went over to put a hand on Honoka's shoulder. "Nico-chan messaged me this morning that she was going to spend lunch with Nozomi-chan. She said Nozomi-chan isn't taking this news very well either."

That made sense to Honoka. Everyone knew how close Nozomi and Eli where so this news couldn't be easy on Nozomi. Maybe she had someone who would be able to understand what she was feeling right now.

"So does that mean we can spend lunch time together." Kotori simply smiled and nodded her head. Honoka got up from her seat and enveloped her in a bone crushing hug.

"You're the best Kotori-chan!" Honoka shouted while letting go of Kotori. "So where should we go?"

"Well I don't think anyone is using the club room so we could use it."

Honoka nodded as they gathered their things. They where both silent as they made their way to the club room. Kotori noticed that Honoka had seemed to have lost the little cheer she had in the classroom. Once they arrived they took seats at the table next to each other, Kotori took out her homemade lunch while Honoka had her sweet bread.

"Is that all you're going to eat?"

"Yeah. Umi-chan never lets me just eat bread for lunch, but she isn't here so." Honoka's eyes where downcast as she munched at her bread.

"You know Honoka-chan. It's alright to be sad, I don't mind." Kotori gave her a reassuring smile hoping maybe to get through to Honoka.

"I-I'm fine really." Kotori noticed Honoka was holding her emotions in and just pulled her into a hug.

"You know you don't have to hold things in Honoka-chan."

Honoka didn't say anything and simply buried her head into Kotori's shoulder letting out a few sobs. Kotori didn't say anything and simply rubbed her friends back urging her to just let everything out. They stayed this way for a few minutes until Honoka broke away from the embrace wiping away her tears on her sleeves.

"I didn't think it would hurt this bad Kotori-chan. I thought I could give up on her, but knowing she is with someone else just hurts a lot more then I thought it would."

Kotori didn't say anything and simply kept on rubbing her back doing her best to help her friend feel better. Honoka looked up to Kotori and gave her a small smile.

"Thanks Kotori-chan. For being here with me. It really helps a lot."

"I'll be there for you anytime you need me Honoka-chan." Kotori then glanced at the clock and noticed lunch was almost over. "How about we go to the bathroom and wash your face before heading back to class. You wouldn't want to worry Umi-chan."

Honoka answered with a smile and a nod as the two friends gathered their things and left the club room. Honoka had a small smile on her face, she knew she wouldn't be able to get over her love that quickly, but she knew she didn't have to do it alone.

* * *

><p>"It's so cold outside! What are we even doing eating lunch on the roof in the middle of winter!?" Nico complained as she tightened her jacket and scarf searching for warmth.<p>

"I didn't ask you to come eat with me you know."

Nico didn't answer as they sat on the roof eating their lunch. Neither really saying anything to each other. Nico was growing impatient and decided to jump right to the point.

"Are you alright Nozomi-chan?" Nico asked a bit shyly

"I'm fine Nico-chan. Why wouldn't I be?" Nozomi replied in her usual tone, getting a glare from Nico.

"You know what I'm talking about Nozomi-chan. I know that you've loved Eli-chan for a long time now. You're hurting you don't have to hide it."

"I-I'm not hurting. I'm actually really happy for her that she found someone that makes her happy." Nozomi said without her usual calm and composure. Nico noticed this immediately and simply put a hand on her friends shoulder.

"You don't always have to be so strong for everyone. You know that all your friends are here for you if you need us."

"It really is fine. You don't have to worry about me." Nozomi was simply staring down at her lunch box as she talked, this made Nico furious.

"How many times do I have to tell you that you aren't alone you idiot! Stop trying to be so strong for everyone and let me help you for a change! It's so obvious that you're hurting and it hurts me to see you like this, so just let me help you!" Nico was shouting at Nozomi. She wondered if maybe she was being a bit to harsh.

Nozomi didn't answer and simply put her head in her hands and started to cry. Nico noticed and moved closer and wrapped an arm around her friend, pulling her in closer.

"See that wasn't too hard was it. Just let it out it's no good if you just keep it all bottled up like that." Nico kept her arm around Nozomi and leaned against her, just letting get all her emotions out.

Nozomi wasn't really thinking now and was just letting all the days emotions out. Finding out that Umi had accepted her confession just as Nozomi thought she would, and seeing the sheer joy on Eli's face caused her so much sadness. Now she was simply letting all that out in the arms of her friend, and she felt relieved. It felt so different then when she cried alone in her room, to have someone there for you and comforting you made the pain so much more bearable.

Nozomi stayed in Nico's arm and simply cried for a few minutes. It was a nice release and Nozomi was thankful for that.

"T-thank you Nico-chan. I guess I really did need to let some stuff out." Nozomi said while still leaning into Nico.

"I told you it would." Nico told her with her usual arrogance before her face softened. "I mean what kind of friend would I be if I didn't help you through this."

"I guess you're right." Nozomi let out a small laugh. "What about Kotori-chan though. Don't you two eat together everyday."

"Oh, she had someone she needed to comfort to."

"So Honoka-chan probably isn't taking this news too well either." Nozomi had noticed that Honoka loved Umi around the time Muse formed, and knew she would be just as heartbroken.

"Probably not. But she has Kotori-chan there so she should be fine." Nico sneaked a peek at her phone and noticed it was almost the end of lunch. "Well we should probably start heading back to class now. You'll be okay right?"

"Yeah I feel a lot better now. Thanks Nico-chan."

The two separated and gathered up their things as they then made their way off the roof and back to class. Nozomi felt a bit lighter and happier, maybe opening up to your friends wasn't too bad after all.

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><p>AN: Welp friends can be pretty great can't they. I wanted to get this chapter out before the weekend since I ain't gonna be able to do any writing over the weekend so I got this out a bit quickly, hopefully it turned out okay.

As always let me know what ya think or what you'd wanna see in the future. Hopefully I can get through these sad chapters and get to some happiness here soon. I've been drowning myself in Honoka and Nozomi fluff ever since I started writing this to make up for it.

Chapter Album â€" Black Messiah by D'Angelo

3. Chapter 3

Disclaimer: I don't own Love Live.

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><p>After her talk with Kotori, Honoka had started to feel quite a bit better than she had before. She regained part of her usual cheer and was able to push out some of the more depressing thoughts she was having during the morning. Though things were still awkward for Honoka when she was around Umi, she just wasn't completely over her yet and knew that would take time. Afternoon classes went by smoothly for Honoka and she was starting to think maybe things wouldn't be so bad.<p>

Those thoughts and feelings were short lived as the members of Muse met in their club room for a meeting before practice. Eli stood at the head of the table with Umi next to her as she got everyone's attention.

"There really isn't much we need to go over before our next live so this will be a short meeting. We just need to keep up with practice and make sure everyone is in proper shape and we should be fine." Eli then looked over at Umi who was blushing slightly. Honoka knew what was coming next.

"M-Me and Umi do have something to tell everyone before we start practice." As Eli talked she reached over and took Umi's hand into her own and gave it a slight squeeze, looking for some reassurance.

Honoka knew the announcement, Umi had already told her and Kotori. She just wasn't sure why seeing them actually together made things so much more unbearable. It was like seeing the two of them together like that made it final. Like everything she had known so far was being confirmed right before her eyes. It seemed to be the final nail in the coffin for her chance at love with Umi, and it left a seemingly large empty space in her heart. Like all these emotions were suddenly gone, and there was nothing really able to fill the void that was left.

Honoka looked around the room and got a few reassuring looks from Kotori and, to her surprise, also from Nico. As she continued to scan the room her eyes met Nozomi's, who was standing off in the corner of

the room near the door. In that one moment it seemed as though they reached a sort of understanding. It was almost as if Honoka could see the same pain that she felt present in Nozomi's eyes. It was an oddly comforting feeling for Honoka, to see those same emotions she had been feeling also present in the eyes of her often emotionally distant senior. Maybe that made her selfish, to take a bit of happiness in Nozomi's pain, but Honoka believed that Nozomi may have felt the same.

"Me and Umi are dating now." Eli's face had gone red with embarrassment as she prepared for the barrage of questions and comments.

"That's great nya! Now we can go on double dates together." Rin said as she pulled Hanayo and Maki in closer.

"Rin stop. We don't need to pressure them into anything." Maki scolded her before looking back to the newly announced couple. "I am happy for you two. I hope you are happy together."

"Yeah, I always thought the two of you were meant to be together. It's like you were made for each other." Hanayo added. Honoka wasn't really sure why that innocent comment stung as much as it did.

"I'm so happy for you Umi-chan! The two of you look so adorable together." Kotori added her congratulations as she got up and gave Umi a quick hug, getting a large blush from her friend.

"T-Thanks Kotori."

"So how far have you two gone already." Nico decided now would be a good time to get some teasing in on the new couple.

Umi couldn't properly form words so Eli had to step in. "Nico it's only been one day. How much could we have possibly done."

"I don't know. Maybe after the confession there was a deep and intimate kiss and from there who knows." Nico had a small smirk as she saw that Umi was nearing her limit.

"Would you cut it out Nico!" Eli shouted while also trying to comfort her girlfriend. "Why would you even ask something like that anyway. It's not like you would answer a question like that either if I asked you."

"But I would answer it. You see, me and Kotori-chan have already..." Kotori quickly put her hand on top of Nico's mouth to stop her.

"We've already kissed." Kotori said while giving Nico a harsh look. Earning a few confused stares from her fellow idols. "That's what you were going to say, right Nico-chan."

"O-Of course we wouldn't even think of doing anything more." Nico replied, not convincing anyone. Getting a shameless from Umi.

After that it took a few minutes for Umi to regain her composure. Once she did she looked at Honoka with an expectant look on her face. Honoka knew why, she probably wanted her approval and Honoka didn't want to disappoint. She would never want to make Umi feel bad about

her feelings, so she mustered up the largest smile and all the energy she could.

"I'm really really happy for you Umi-chan! I hope you two can be happy together forever and ever." Honoka did her best to keep up her smile as she turned to Eli. "And if you ever make her cry I'll make sure you regret it."

"Jeez Honoka. Don't say such embarrassing things."

"I was just kidding Umi-chan. I know Eli-chan would never do anything like that to anyone, especially you."

"Thanks Honoka. That really means a lot coming from you, and don't worry, I wouldn't ever think of hurting Umi."

Honoka gave her a quick nod before walking over to pull both of them into a quick hug. Sure on the inside she was hurting, but maybe this was the closure that she needed. To finally send off her childhood love to someone else. After they separated Nozomi finally stepped forward.

"I'm very happy for you Elicchi, and I wish the two of you nothing but happiness in the future." Nozomi congratulated them with a seemingly normal smile. Though her voice seemed to lack it's normally playful tone.

"Thanks Nozomi." Eli said with a warm smile before clapping to get everyone's attention. "Now that that's done. Lets go to the roof to get practice started."

* * *

><p>Nozomi looked around the roof as everyone partnered up to begin their stretches. She saw everyone together, Kotori with Nico, the first year trio, and Eli and Umi already paired up. Maybe she was hoping that she would still be able to do things like this with Eli, that not that much would change. Did that make her childish? To get jealous at something as simple and mundane as stretching before practice, maybe it did. She wasn't able to dwell on the thought much longer as someone yelled over to her.<p>

"Nozomi-chan!"

"Sorry Honoka-chan. I guess I was just spacing out."

"Well it's fine." Honoka gave a quick look around at the rest of the group before looking back to Nozomi. "It looks like me and you are gonna be partners for a while."

"I guess you're right." Nozomi let out a small chuckle. "We should probably get started."

Honoka nodded as they began their routine of stretches, neither one really saying anything. Nozomi noted that Honoka had a more somber expression than usual, it seemed so out of place on the normally bright girls face. She figured she would maybe try and help her junior cope, and maybe Honoka could help her as well.

"Are you alright Honoka-chan." Nozomi asked in a bit of a whisper as

she they continued along with their stretches.

"W-What do you mean?"

"Honoka-chan I know about how you feel about Umi-chan. You don't have to hide it around me."

Hearing that Honoka's expression turned even darker.

"When did you figure it out?"

"Well I had my suspicions when Muse first started really. You know you aren't very good at hiding your emotions. Like right now it's obvious that something is hurting you." Nozomi took on a slight frown. "I can guess what the problem is. It's pretty hard to watch them together isn't it?"

At that both of their eyes looked over at the new couple. Both Eli and Umi were slightly flustered at the close contact between them.

"I guess you're right Nozomi-chan. I want to be happy for them, and I think I am. It's just kinda hard seeing someone you care for so much be with someone else."

"I understand what you mean."

Honoka's eyes widened a bit at the statement. Maybe she could finally get her suspicions about Nozomi's feelings toward Eli.

"So does that mean you're in love with Eli-chan?" Honoka's voice was quiet.

Nozomi didn't answer and she simply frowned at the question. Honoka saw this and immediately regretted asking.

"Sorry Nozomi-chan. You don't have to answer that. I might have just gotten the wrong idea, sorry."

"It's fine Honoka-chan." Nozomi said as she pushed on down on Honoka's back, maybe letting her know wouldn't be such a bad idea. "Yes I was in love with Elicchi. I probably still am to."

Honoka stayed silent. She had her suspicions about Nozomi's feelings, but to have them confirmed made her feel a bit of a connection with Nozomi.

"I guess that puts us in the same situation."

"Yeah you're right." Nozomi let out a dry laugh. "That would mean we're like comrades in heartbreak."

"That's not really a happy title is it."

"No I guess it isn't. But our situation isn't exactly a happy one, is it?"

Honoka simply nodded her head. "Well I think things might get better in the future. Our feelings just need some time." Honoka didn't just say this for Nozomi, she needed to reassure herself of it as

well.

"I really hope you're right Honoka-chan."

With that they finished their stretching and Umi called everyone over to take their places as they started up practice. Eli and Umi were going to lead the practice and were standing in front of the group preparing to start. Umi though noticed Honoka seemed sort of down and lacking her usual enthusiasm for practice.

"Honoka are you alright? You don't seem as energetic as usual." Umi questioned with concern heavy in her voice.

"I'm fine Umi-chan. You don't need to worry about me. We should just start practice." Honoka was simply trying to deflect any further questions. She really hated that her feelings were having such an affect on the way she acted.

"Are you sure? You just don't seem like yourself today."

"I-I guess my stomach just hurts a little." Honoka lied a bit shakily.

"Well you seemed alright this morning. What did you have for lunch?"

"Just bread." Honoka's voice was quiet, she knew Umi wouldn't like that answer.

Umi let out a big sigh as she put her head in her hands. "I leave you alone for one day and you already do something irresponsible." She lifted her head back up and looked at Honoka. "I guess you should just sit out practice today."

Honoka didn't say anything and simply looked down at the ground. She hadn't intended to miss practice because of her emotions. Maybe Nozomi was right, she was just too easy to read sometimes.

Nozomi noticed Honoka's mood worsen as Umi lectured and decided to step in and try and save the girl .

"Well how about I just walk her home than. We wouldn't want her to just sit around and watch us practice while she feels sick." Nozomi said while giving Honoka a knowing smile.

"I guess that's fine." Umi told her before looking back to Honoka. "But you're going to have to make up for this you know."

"Don't worry so much Umi-chan. I'll be right back to practicing tomorrow."

With that, Honoka and Nozomi gathered their things and said their goodbyes before making their way outside heading toward Honoka's home.

"Thanks a lot for helping me out Nozomi-chan. I'll try and make it up to you somehow." Honoka said as she walked alongside her senior.

"Don't worry about it Honoka-chan. I saw that you were having a hard

time so I decided I would help."

"I guess I should learn to hide my emotions better when I'm around them."

"Well, you've never been very good at hiding how you feel. So why start now." Nozomi replied while giving her a friendly smile.

"Besides, I like it better when you show how you feel. You don't seem like Honoka when you try and hide your feelings."

"I guess you're right about that."

The simply continued to walk in a comfortable silence before Honoka decided to speak up again.

"You know Nozomi-chan. I sorta feel bad about missing practice like this." Honoka took on a more somber expression before she continued. "It's like, I know I shouldn't let my feelings get in the way of our idol activities. But seeing those two together all the time just makes it kinda hard. Maybe I'm just being selfish or something."

Nozomi looked over at Honoka and noted her darkened mood. It was rare for anyone to see Honoka in this sort of state, and even more rare that Honoka would just let out her problems like she just had.

"Hey Honoka-chan. Can I tell you a secret?"

Honoka didn't respond and simply looked over and gave her a quick nod telling her to continue.

"I asked to take you home because I didn't know how much longer I could be around Elicchi and Umi-chan together without breaking down."

Honoka was shocked at Nozomi's confession. Sure she knew Nozomi was heartbroken, but she didn't expect for her to feel the same way she did. It was such a different side of her normally composed senior that Honoka had never seen before. It made her seem less like some mystical figure and something more relatable.

"I didn't know you felt that way Nozomi-chan. I mean you're always so cool and helpful to others. I didn't think you'd ever really feel like that."

"You do know that I am still a high school girl. I can have the same problems as everyone else."

"Ahh. I didn't mean it like that."

"I know you didn't." Nozomi let out a small sigh. "I guess I've just gotten pretty good at hiding my emotions from people."

"Well, you don't have to hide them in front of me. Didn't you say we're like comrades in heartbreak"

Hearing that Nozomi let out a slight chuckle and felt like she could open up a bit. If anyone could help her cope and deal with this it was Honoka.

"You know last night Elicchi came over to my apartment and asked me for love advice. At first I thought that maybe after all this time she was starting to feel the same way I felt for her." Honoka put a hand on Nozomi's shoulder and gave it a reassuring squeeze. "When she told me that it was Umi I didn't believe her at first. But when she told me again I just wanted to cry. When she left I just laid in my bed and cried until I fell asleep."

As Nozomi finished she was on the verge of tears and Honoka wasn't sure how to react. It was a side of her senior that she had never seen before, and one she really didn't want to see again. Honoka moved her hand down to Nozomi's back and gave started rubbing small circles, doing whatever she thought she could to make her feel better.

"It still hurts a lot you know." As Nozomi said this she looked back down at the ground. "Part of this feels like my fault. If I could have just told her how I felt non of this would have ever needed to happen."

"I know what you mean."

Hearing this Nozomi looked up toward Honoka before she continued.

"I loved Umi-chan ever since we entered middle school and I was never able to properly tell her how I felt."

Nozomi was surprised to hear Honoka had loved Umi for so long. Sure Nozomi knew she was in love with Umi but she never knew Honoka had been holding in her feelings for so long. She kept quiet though as Honoka continued.

"Even when Kotori-chan would try and get me to confess, I wouldn't. I didn't want to mess up our friendship because I fell in love with her. But than we started Muse and Umi-chan met Eli-chan and I knew that she was in love with her. She was so obvious about it that I decided to just hide my feelings and hope they would go away." Honoka let out a dry laugh. "But I guess that didn't work out to well."

After that neither girl said anything as they continued their walk. Both were feeling a bit lighter having been able to open up about their feeling to someone they felt would best be able to understand what they had been going through. They eventually made their way to Honoka's home where they stood outside the front door.

"Thanks for walking me home. And for letting me vent to you like that, I think it helped." Honoka told Nozomi with a small smile and a quick hug.

"You can always come to me about anything Honoka-chan, especially if it's about Umi-chan. It feels good opening up to someone who can understand."

"You're right, talking to you today definitely made me feel better." Both girls simply smiled at each other. "And I know I might not be the easiest person to talk to, but you can always come to me if you need help."

"I'll keep that in mind." Nozomi turned to leave, "well I'll see you

tomorrow Honoka-chan."

"Bye bye Nozomi-chan."

Honoka waved her friend goodbye as she turned to go inside, a small smile present on her face. Yeah things will definitely get better, Honoka was sure of that.

As Nozomi walked away she let out a chuckle, she was going to be seeing a lot more of Honoka in the future, she didn't need her cards to tell her that.

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><p>AN: So this chapter was a huge pain in the ass to get out for some reason. I had it finished originally on Monday but when I read through it it was a jumbled mess that I had to go through and fix a whole bunch of stuff. Still not sure how well I did making it a coherent chapter but I hope it turned out well.

As always let me know what ya thought or what you'd wanna see. Also happy late birthday to Maki, I actually had a HonoMaki oneshot started that I wanted to get out in time since I love the pairing so much. But my ideas kept falling through, so instead all ya get is this small shout out.

Chapter album â€" Coming Home by Leon Bridges

End
file.